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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina raises a toast after her victory on Saturday | AFP

OZ OPEN: RYBAKINA DEFEATS SABALENKA

Elena Rybakina edges past Aryna Sabalenka to lift the Australian Open. The Kazakh, born in Moscow, is one of the hardest hitters in the game. Sabalenka, who had yet to drop a set this year, had started the final as a favourite, but very soon came under fire. Being played indoors because of rain, she recovered but the Kazakh won the first set. Sabalenka roared back to take the second but her opponent ultimately prevailed 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 P17

2-yr deputation at Centre must for IPS officers

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

FACING an acute shortage of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers at the Centre, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended promotion guidelines to make central deputation mandatory for empanelment to senior ranks.

MHA has revised its norms stating that IPS officers would be required to complete a minimum of two years of central deputation at the rank of SP and DIG, or an equivalent level, to be eligible for empanelment as IG or its equivalent cadre.

The decision follows reminders from MHA to state governments to nominate an adequate number of IPS officers for central deputation in line with the Central Deputation Reserve. These reminders have come even from the level of Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, highlighting gaps in staffing at the Centre, particularly at the SP and DIG levels. The revised rules will apply to IPS officers of 2011 batch onwards.

An MHA official said younger IPS officers have shown reluctance for central deputation due to the appeal of field postings in districts where they lead police forces and exercise direct command. As a result, many officers prefer to remain in their respective state cadres during the early and middle stages of their careers. Officers become more inclined to serve at the Centre only after reaching the IG level or above. This imbalance prompted the rule tweak.

SUNETRA DEPUTY CM, SHARAD PAWAR SORE

1st woman in Maha to hold post; NCP merger may hit hurdle: Sharad

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

From left, CM Devendra Fadnavis, Governor Acharya Devvrat, Deputy CM Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Sunetra Pawar after her swearing-in in Mumbai | PTI

SUNETRA Ajit Pawar was sworn in as deputy chief minister of Maharashtra on Saturday at the Governor's House in Mumbai, becoming the first woman to occupy the position in the state.

She was allotted excise, sports, minority development and Aukaf (Waqf) departments, but not finance and planning which her late husband Ajit Pawar held.

The brief swearing-in ceremony at the Lok Bhavan took place three days after deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar died in an air crash in Baramati on January 28.

A commerce graduate, Sunetra, 62, resigned from her Rajya Sabha membership, and is expected to contest the byelection to the Baramati assembly constituency represented by her late husband.

After Ajit Pawar's demise, the 85-year-old Sharad Pawar had called a meeting of the Pawar family on Friday night to discuss the merger of both factions of the NCP. But Sunetra and her two sons, Parth and Jay, skipped it and left for Mumbai for the NCP's legislative party meeting and oath-taking ceremony. An apparently miffed Pawar told the media in Baramati a day later that he had no idea that Sunetra was going to be sworn in as deputy CM.

"We had several meetings with Ajit for the merger of NCP. It was his wish that both factions should come together... it appears the process may hit a roadblock following the accident," Sharad Pawar said. Parth then rushed back to Baramati to mollify his grandfather as well as Supriya Sule. P12

PROBE GATHERS STEAM

SIT to investigate CJ Roy's suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE State Government on Saturday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), comprising officers from the Bengaluru City Police, to investigate the suicidal death of **Chiriankandath Joseph Roy**, popularly known as CJ Roy, chairman of Confident Group -- a prominent real estate company.

The SIT will be headed by 2009-batch IPS officer C Vamsi Krishna, now serving as Joint Commissioner of Police (West). Lokesh B Jagalsar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) - South division, will function as the Investigation Officer . DCP (Central) Akshay M Hakay and other senior officers deputed from various divisions and special units will be members.

The SIT has been empowered to induct additional officers and resources as required.

"The SIT will investigate the suicide case of CJ Roy. Based on its findings, the future course of investigations will be decided," Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara told the media.

The complaint filed by 63-year-old TA Joseph, Managing Director of Confident Group, with the jurisdictional Ashoknagar police will be transferred to the SIT. As part of the investigation, the SIT will examine the data of two mobile phones of Roy, his bank transactions and his professional life. It will also record the statements of his staff. The Income Tax officials who were at the scene of crime when the incident occurred are also likely to be questioned. MORE ON P3

EXPRESS READ

Guv sends hate speech bill for Prez consideration

BENGALURU: Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has reserved the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crime (Prevention) Bill, 2025, for President's consideration. Gehlot stressed the need for more deliberations to ascertain the constitutionality of the Bill P4

India beat New Zealand by 46 runs in fifth T20I

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Ishan Kishan smashed a maiden T20I hundred, while Suryakumar Yadav hit a fifty as India defeated New Zealand by 46 runs in the 5th match to seal the series 4-1 on Saturday. **Score:** India: 271/5 in 20 overs, NZ: 225/10 in 19.4 overs P17

4 migrant workers found dead in city shed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FOUR labourers from Assam were found dead under mysterious circumstances at their shed at E Muthsandra in Hoskote taluk under the Sulibele police limits, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, on Friday night.

The four were working as loaders at a warehouse that stores soft drinks. After returning to the shed from work on Friday night, they had kept rice to cook, locked the door and shut all the windows. Another roommate, who returned from work later, found them dead.

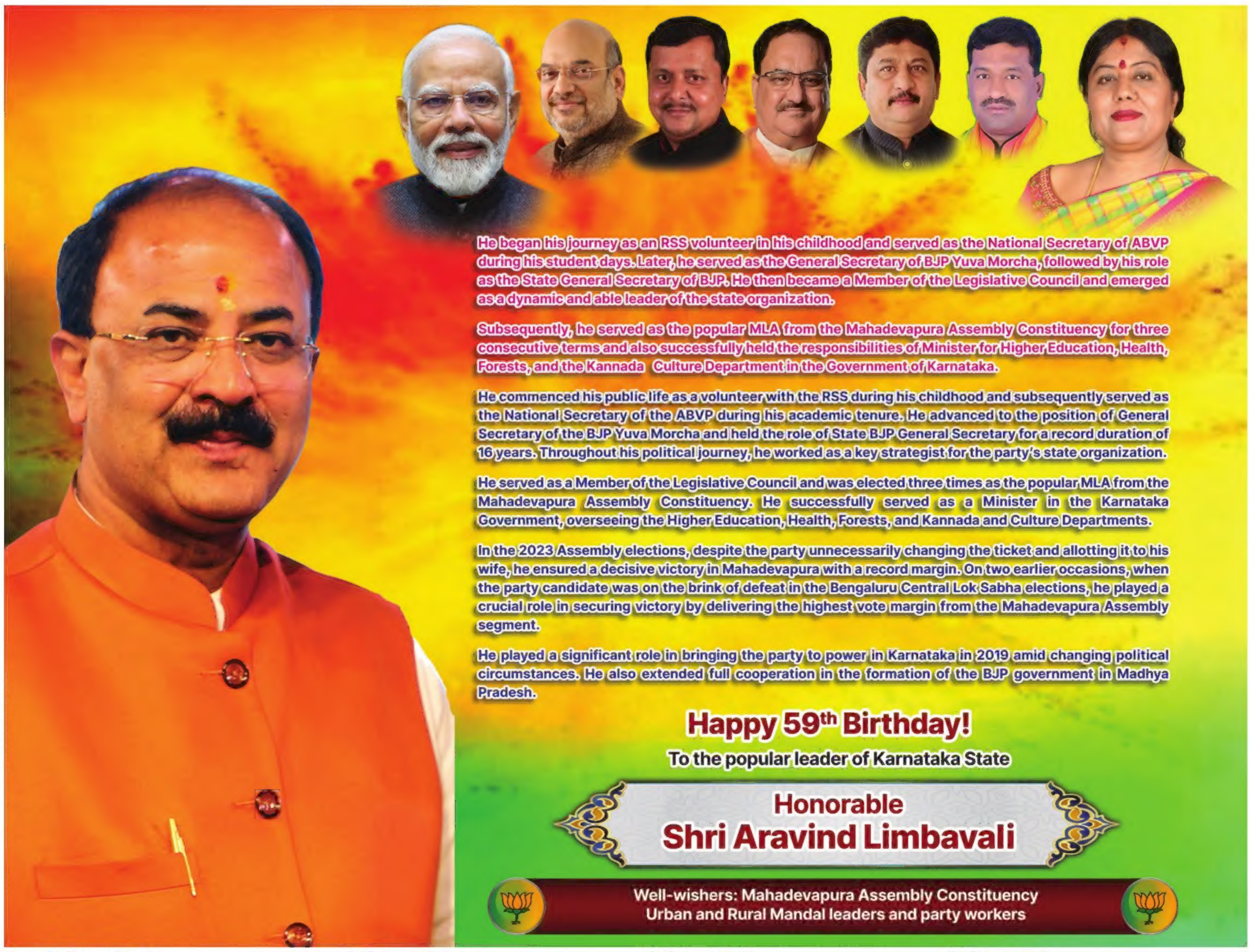
The deceased have been identified as Jayant Sindhe (25), Nirendranath (24), Doctor Tide (25) and Dhananjay Tide (20).

The other roommate, Ajay, who was working at a different place, returned to the shed around 11 pm. When there was no response from any of his friends, he forcibly opened the door and saw smoke inside. P3

EXPRESS INTAKE

Panel for abolition of regional devpt boards except KKRDB | P4

Jayamala marks her second term as president of KFCC | P4


He began his journey as an RSS volunteer in his childhood and served as the National Secretary of ABVP during his student days. Later, he served as the General Secretary of BJP Yuva Morcha, followed by his role as the State General Secretary of BJP. He then became a Member of the Legislative Council and emerged as a dynamic and able leader of the state organization.
Subsequently, he served as the popular MLA from the Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency for three consecutive terms and also successfully held the responsibilities of Minister for Higher Education, Health, Forests, and the Kannada Culture Department in the Government of Karnataka.
He commenced his public life as a volunteer with the RSS during his childhood and subsequently served as the National Secretary of the ABVP during his academic tenure. He advanced to the position of General Secretary of the BJP Yuva Morcha and held the role of State BJP General Secretary for a record duration of 16 years. Throughout his political journey, he worked as a key strategist for the party's state organization.
He served as a Member of the Legislative Council and was elected three times as the popular MLA from the Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency. He successfully served as a Minister in the Karnataka Government, overseeing the Higher Education, Health, Forests, and Kannada and Culture Departments.
In the 2023 Assembly elections, despite the party unnecessarily changing the ticket and allotting it to his wife, he ensured a decisive victory in Mahadevapura with a record margin. On two earlier occasions, when the party candidate was on the brink of defeat in the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha elections, he played a crucial role in securing victory by delivering the highest vote margin from the Mahadevapura Assembly segment.
He played a significant role in bringing the party to power in Karnataka in 2019 amid changing political circumstances. He also extended full cooperation in the formation of the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh.
Happy 59th Birthday!
To the popular leader of Karnataka State
Honorable
Shri Aravind Limbavali
Well-wishers: Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency
Urban and Rural Mandal leaders and party workers